



Asylum seekers caught in political battle in NYC, Washington



Eduardo Garcia stands with crutches, surrounded by his family outside the Catholic Charities headquarters in New York, on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**
and **ASHRAF KHALIL**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Weary of Venezuela's autocratic government and the pitance he earned in the military, Dario Maldonado deserted and fled with his family to neighboring Colombia. But life remained hard — money was tight and expenses mounted. So he set off for the United States, an odyssey that required him to travel by foot through Central American jungle infested with venomous snakes and gun-toting bandits, sometimes sidestepping the corpses of people who died on the

same journey.

Now Maldonado and thousands of other asylum seekers from across Latin America and the Caribbean are caught in the political battle over U.S. immigration policy after two Republican governors started sending busloads of migrants to New York City and Washington.

Border cities such as San Diego have long wrestled with influxes of asylum-seekers and created well-oiled machines to respond, but the nation's largest city and its capital were caught flat-footed. That created an opening for Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug

Ducey of Arizona to exploit what they consider failed Democratic leadership. Nearly 8,000 migrants have arrived on the state-sponsored bus trips, straining the resources and humanitarian services of both cities, which have also sought assistance from the federal government.

"This can be chaotic. But we want to send a message: We're here to help, and we want to put politics aside," said New York City's immigration commissioner, Manuel Castro, as he greeted arriving migrants on a recent morning.

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Continued from Front

Abbott started the practice in April with Washington, and Doug Ducey followed suit in May. Abbott also recently began sending buses to New York.

For migrants, the politics are only dimly understood — and far less relevant than finding temporary shelter, jobs and a long-term home in America.

"I have heard that the Texas governor is anti-immigrant," Maldonado said outside a New York shelter. "It is like a war between the party of the governor of Texas and the party of Biden."

A voluntary consent form for free transportation from Texas tells migrants that Washington is where the president and members of Congress "are more immediately able to help address the needs of migrants."

Migrants who sign a consent form for a free trip to New York are told that the city has designated itself a "sanctuary" for migrants, who are provided with food and shelter.

U.S. authorities stopped migrants 1.43 million times at the Mexican border from January through July, up 28% from the same period last year. Many are released on humanitarian parole or with notices to appear in immigration court.

The sight of both cities scrambling to cope with the influx drew undisguised schadenfreude from Abbott, who called New York City "the ideal destination for these migrants, who can receive the abundance of city services and housing that Mayor Eric Adams has boasted about within the sanctuary city."

In both cities, social service charities and churches have mobilized to support new arrivals, offering temporary shelter, medical attention and often a ticket to their next destination as they await a date in immigration court.

"Many are fleeing persecution and other very severe circumstances. They're confused. And we want to



Eduardo Garcia stands with crutches, surrounded by his family outside the Catholic Charities headquarters in New York, on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. Garcia limped nearly the entire journey from Venezuela to the U.S. after breaking his ankle on a mountain along the way.

make sure that we support them as much as possible and make sure that they're not being used as political pawns," Castro said.

On a recent August day, a bus of 41 migrants from Arizona arrived at a church in Washington's Capitol Hill neighborhood, where they were greeted by workers from SAMU First Response, an international relief agency.

Within minutes the group was enjoying a hot meal inside the church and filling out arrival forms.

Texas buses arrive haphazardly, said Tatiana Laborde, the agency's managing director. They only hear from charitable groups that a bus carrying a certain number of people has departed. At some point about 48 hours later, that bus drops off riders at Washington's Union Station.

Arizona provides detailed manifests of passengers and their nationalities, coordination on arrival times and has medical personnel aboard each bus.

"They don't want to just dump people here," Laborde said.

Many of those who arrive in Washington don't stay long. Mayor Muriel Bowser,

in her second request for National Guard support, told Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin last week that most migrants stay up to 72 hours before moving on to their final destinations.

"They don't know much about D.C. other than the president is here," Laborde said.

Kelin Enriquez, another Venezuelan, was among them. She and her children first arrived in Washington and later found themselves at a family center in the Bronx to plan the family's next steps.

"No one leaves their land because they want to. We want to work. We want a better opportunity," said Enriquez, who helped care for Alzheimer's patients in her native country.

Some migrants see a free ticket from the border as the best of bad options.

For Eduardo Garcia, the top priorities were finding a job and a place to live and starting life anew.

It was an agonizing journey, even if he hadn't broken his left ankle while trying to keep his wife from falling along the perilous trail. He limped in pain for more than 1,000 miles.

"I didn't care because I

cared more about getting here," he said.

He told no one about his fractured limb until he arrived in New York, where he got medical attention, a cast and crutches.

In New York, many of the migrants make their way to the offices of Catholic Charities. Officials in Texas — it is unclear who — listed the office as the migrants' address, which perplexed church officials at the New York Diocese. The diocese has now received more than 1,300 court notices on behalf of migrants.

"I think we were maybe caught off guard, a little bit disappointed by the governments in Texas and Arizona just putting individuals on buses to D.C. without any plan at the other end," said Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, executive director of migrant services for Catholic Charities in New York.

In the last two months, the procession of Venezuelans seeking refuge in the United States has grown dramatically. In July, Border Patrol agents stopped Venezuelans 17,603 times — up 34% from June and nearly triple from July 2021.

The United States does not recognize the government

of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro because of allegations that the country's 2018 election was a sham. The lack of official recognition complicates the country's ability to take back asylum-seekers. The Mexican government also refuses to accept the migrants, which gives the U.S. few options in handling Venezuelans.

At a New York City shelter, brothers Leonardo Oviedo, 22, and Angel Mota, 19, seemed giddy shortly after arriving in New York. They had plans to reconnect with an acquaintance in New Jersey.

Big plans lie ahead. Oviedo wants to land a job. Mota wants to attend school. How they will accomplish their dreams was still uncertain as the pair swiped through photos of relatives they left behind in Venezuela, including their mother, grandmother, brother and sister.

For now, neither brother is especially concerned about the politics that brought them here.

"We had nowhere to go," Mota said outside a shelter on a sweltering summer morning. "This is where they would welcome us." □

Associated Press



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Fauci to step down after decades as top U.S. infection expert

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
and **ZEKE MILLER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert who became a household name — and the subject of partisan attacks — during the COVID-19 pandemic, announced Monday he will leave the federal government in December after more than five decades.

Fauci directs the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is chief medical adviser to President Joe Biden and also leads a lab studying the immune system.

While the COVID-19 pandemic introduced him to millions of Americans, he's given straight-talk to the nation about numerous outbreaks including HIV/AIDS, SARS, pandemic flu, Ebola and the 2001 anthrax attacks.

"I've gone into this campus and into the labs and into the hospital every day, including most weekends, for 54 years. The idea of walking away from it obviously is bittersweet," Fauci told The Associated Press.

In announcing his departure, the 81-year-old Fauci called his roles "the honor of a lifetime" but said it was time "to pursue the next chapter of my career."

Known for his candor and for the ability to translate complex medical information into everyday language, Fauci has been a key adviser to seven presidents starting with Ronald Reagan.

Fauci became the face of



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on Capitol Hill, Nov. 4, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

the government response to COVID-19 as it hit in early 2020, with frequent appearances on television news and at daily press conferences with White House officials, including then-President Donald Trump. But as the pandemic deepened, Fauci fell out of favor with Trump when his urgings of continued public caution clashed with the former president's desire to return to normalcy and to promote unproven treatments for the virus.

Fauci found himself marginalized by the Trump administration, but he continued to speak out publicly in media interviews, advocating social distancing and

masks in public settings before the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines.

He was also the subject of political attacks and death threats and was given a security detail for his protection.

When Biden won the White House, he asked Fauci to stay on in his administration in an elevated capacity.

"I've been able to call him at any hour of the day for his advice," Biden said in a statement. "Whether you've met him personally or not, he has touched all Americans' lives with his work. I extend my deepest thanks for his public service. The United States of America is stronger, more

resilient, and healthier because of him."

Fauci said he planned to continue working after leaving the government, saying he wants to use his experience "to hopefully inspire the younger generation of scientists and would-be scientists" to consider a career in public service.

For all the rancor of the coronavirus pandemic, it wasn't Fauci's first run-in with an angry public. He became head of the infectious diseases branch of the National Institutes of Health in 1984 when the nation was in the throes of the AIDS crisis. Activists protested what they saw as government indifference and

Fauci, frustrated at being unable to save dying patients in the NIH's hospital, brought them to the table in the hunt for treatments.

Later, under President George W. Bush, Fauci helped develop PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, to bring life-saving HIV treatments to developing countries. In 2008, Bush awarded Fauci the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Fauci said Monday he'd hoped there would be a successful HIV vaccine before he retired but "it wasn't for lack of trying" to overcome extraordinary scientific challenges posed by that virus.

Fast forward to COVID-19, and for many Americans, Fauci has remained a trusted voice even as scientists were surprised again and again by a fast-evolving new virus. The NIH had laid the scientific groundwork for the speedy development of powerful coronavirus vaccines that, while not perfect, are highly effective at preventing serious illness and death.

Fauci told the AP that he remains frustrated at the country's divisions over how to handle the pandemic.

"If ever there was a situation where you wanted a unified approach and everybody pulling together for the common good, it would be when you're in the middle of a public health crisis," he said. "As a physician and a scientist, I and my colleagues have the responsibility to do what's correct, what is science-based." □



South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Feb. 25, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Ethics board: SD Gov. Noem may have 'engaged in misconduct'

By **STEPHEN GROVES**

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota ethics board on Monday said it found sufficient information that Gov. Kristi Noem may have "engaged in misconduct" when she intervened in her daughter's application for a real estate appraiser license, and it referred a separate complaint over her state airplane use to the state's attorney general for investigation. The three retired judges on the Government Accountability Board determined that "appropriate action" could be taken against Noem for her role in her daughter's appraiser licensure, though it didn't specify the action.

The board's moves potentially escalate the ramifications of investigations into Noem. The Republican governor faces reelection this year and has also positioned herself as an aspirant to the White House in 2024. She is under scrutiny from the board after Jason Ravensborg, the state's former Republican attorney general, filed complaints that stemmed from media reports on Noem's actions in office. She has denied any wrongdoing.

After meeting in a closed-door session for one hour Monday, the board voted unanimously to invoke

procedures that allow for a contested case hearing to give Noem, who has denied wrongdoing, a chance to publicly defend herself against allegations of "misconduct" related to "conflicts of interest" and "malfeasance." The board also dismissed Ravensborg's allegations that Noem misused state funds in the episode. However, the retired judges left it unclear how they will proceed. Lori Wilbur, the board chair, said the complaint was "partially dismissed and partially closed," but added that the complaint could be reopened. She declined to discuss what would cause the board to reopen the complaint.

The board can issue a public or private reprimand or direct an official to do community service. It can also make recommendations to the governor — though that option seems unlikely since the complaints are leveled against Noem.

The complaints are proving to be the first major test of the board, which was launched in 2017 in response to several scandals in state government. It has never taken public action against a state official.

The retired judges also referred a complaint that Noem flew on state-owned airplanes to political events to the state attorney gen-

eral's office for further investigation. That puts the investigation under the oversight of the interim attorney general, Mark Varago, who was appointed by Noem.

"We will be diligent in our duty and thoroughly investigate the complaint that the General Accountability Board has presented to the Attorney General's Office," he said in a statement. "The investigation, as with all other investigations, will remain confidential as does the complaint that has been presented to us. We have no other comment at this time."

The board handled the complaints only by case number and did not refer to Noem directly in either case. Ravensborg provided the case numbers to The Associated Press.

"Knowing what I know as the complainant, Gov. Noem should be fully investigated for her abuse of power in getting her daughter an appraiser license, and Gov. Noem should be prosecuted for her criminal use of state resources for personal gain," he said in a statement.

The board plans to publicly release the complaint over the appraiser license for Noem after redacting some sections. It did not give a date for when that will happen. □

Man admits faking death to avoid sex abuse charges



Jacob Blair Scott, who is accused of sexually assaulting a minor, cries out while being cross-examined by Assistant District Attorney Justin Lovorn, during his trial in Jackson County Circuit Court in Pascagoula, Miss., on Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — A military veteran pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to faking his own death off the Alabama coast to try to avoid sexual abuse charges in Mississippi.

Jacob Blair Scott pleaded guilty to charges of sending a false distress call that led to a Coast Guard search; illegally shipping weapons across state lines and giving false information, according to court records.

A federal judge will sentence Scott in November. He was already sentenced to serve 85 years in prison in Mississippi after he was convicted of sexually assaulting a girl and impregnating her when he was 40 and she was 14.

Scott was facing charges of assaulting the girl when he faked his death in July 2018. The Orange Beach Police Department responded to a call for assistance and found a small boat in the Gulf of Mexico, about a mile away from shore, with a gun tied to it. The dinghy was empty except for a suicide note.

Authorities searched for a body for more than a week in the Gulf of Mexico.

Scott was captured in early 2020 at an RV park in Oklahoma, where he was living under another name.

A Mississippi jury in June convicted him of multiple sexual battery and child abuse charges.

According to the Sun-Herald, the victim tearfully testified at the trial about how Scott had sexually assaulted her at least 30 times over several months beginning in 2016 and ending in 2017 when she learned she was pregnant.

Scott is a military veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart in 2011 for injuries he received while deployed in Iraq, according to the U.S. Marshals Service, which had once listed him as one of its 15 most-wanted fugitives. □

In sign of support, US bombers fly over Dubrovnik, Balkans

DUBROVNIK, Croatia (AP) —

A pair of U.S. Air Force B52 strategic bombers on Monday flew low over the Croatian resort of Dubrovnik and three other NATO-member states in the region as a sign of support amid the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

In addition to the walled Croatian tourist resort of Dubrovnik, the aircraft flew over the government headquarters in Skopje, North Macedonia, the downtown Skanderbeg Square in the Albanian capital, Tirana, and up the Adriatic coast of Montenegro.

The Balkans and the Adriatic Sea have lately seen increased military, intelligence and propaganda activity by Moscow, which considers the region of its strategic interest because of its access to the Mediterranean.

"The purpose of each fly-over is to demonstrate U.S. commitment and assurance to NATO allies and partners located in southeastern Europe," the U.S. Air Force said in a statement. "Additionally, this will



U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft flies over North Macedonia's capital Skopje, on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

provide citizens an opportunity to take photos, videos, and enjoy the aircraft flying overhead."

Crowds gathered on the squares in Skopje and Tirana, and tourists watched in Dubrovnik and Montenegro as the giant bombers thundered overhead. Some onlookers waved American flags.

North Macedonia was the

last nation to join NATO in 2020 and Montenegro did it in 2017, both despite strong opposition from Russia.

North Macedonia's Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Colonel Jovan Azmanovski, told TV broadcaster Kanal 5 that the bombers' flights were symbolic proof that "our skies are safe."

"People in North Macedonia were able to see a

flights of USAF B52 two strategic bombers over Skopje, which demonstrate our NATO membership and the safety and security of our and skies of entire alliance. Our skies are safe and our (NATO) membership is more than visible," Azmanovski said.

In Tirana, Albanian Army Chief of Staff Arben Kingji said "we are witnessing a

strategic military demonstration."

"Our strategic partners are hand to hand with us, it's a message of unity," he said at the square where people gathered.

The two B-52 Stratofortress aircraft are assigned to the 23rd Bomb Squadron currently operating out of RAF Fairford, United Kingdom.

Since 2018, the U.S. has conducted more than 200 Bomber Task Force sorties with allies and partners.

Most recently, this involved B-1B Lancer flights over the Nordic, Baltic, and Black Sea regions in May, as well as an air policing overflight of North Macedonia in June. In June, Stratofortresses conducted flights over the Arctic Ocean, and later took part in BALTOPS, the largest annual exercise in the Baltic Sea. In the Baltic Sea, the amphibious warship USS Kearsarge the largest warship ever to visit Lithuania was officially welcomed Monday. The country borders fellow NATO member Poland and Belarus, a Moscow ally. □

Italy's Meloni shocks opponents with alleged rape video

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — The far-right candidate who aspires to be Italy's first female leader came under fire Monday from opponents for posting a pixelized video that purports to show a woman being raped by an asylum-seeker.

Giorgia Meloni, the leader of the Brothers of Italy party that has neo-fascist roots, on Sunday evening reposted a video on Twitter from an Italian news site that was taken by a witness from a window overlooking the street. The woman, identified as Ukrainian, can be heard yelling in distress. A 27-year-old asylum-seeker from Guinea has been arrested in the sexual assault, according to Italian media reports.

"One cannot remain silent front of this atrocious epi-

sode of sexual violence in broad daylight in Piacenza by an asylum-seeker," Meloni wrote. "A hug for this woman. I will do everything possible to restore security to our cities."

Her main opponent in the Sept. 25 vote, Democratic

Party leader Enrico Letta, countered in a radio interview that reposting the video went beyond "the bounds of dignity and decency."

A former education minister, Lucia Azzolina, said posting the alleged rape

video "is not an official criminal complaint, but instrumentalization" of violence.

"(Seeing) a woman, candidate to run the country, using this media, is chilling," Azzolina said.

And Carlo Calenda, leader of a small, new centrist party called Action, said "Meloni has done something not worthy of a civilized country, and against women."

Meloni's allusion to security in Italian cities is a right-wing theme in this election campaign, which also hits at immigration. She was backed by coalition partner Matteo Salvini, the leader of the right-wing League party and former firebrand interior minister, who pledged that "defending our borders and Italians will be a duty for me, not a right."

In a video response to

Letta's criticism, Meloni emphasized that no one is identifiable in the video and that the center-left leader had failed to condemn the attack itself.

"Why don't you speak of this? Because otherwise you need to come to terms with the fact that security in our cities is out of control, thanks also to the surreal immigration policies that you have pursued," Meloni said.

Polls show the Brothers of Italy having a potential lead with voters over the Democratic Party ahead of the parliamentary election, but neither have enough support to govern alone.

Meloni can expect a significant boost from her coalition partners the League and Silvio Berlusconi's center-right Forza Italia party while Letta is aligned with much smaller parties. □



Fratelli d' Italia (Brothers of Italy) party leader Giorgia Meloni speaks during a center-right opposition rally in Rome's central Piazza del Popolo, Saturday, July 4, 2020.

Associated Press

Police file terrorism charges against Pakistan's Imran Khan

By **MUNIR AHMED**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani police have filed terrorism charges against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, authorities said Monday, escalating political tensions in the country as the ousted premier holds mass rallies seeking to return to office.

The charges followed a speech Khan gave in Islamabad on Saturday in which he vowed to sue police officers and a female judge and alleged that a close aide had been tortured after his arrest.

Khan himself has not publicly spoken about the latest charges against him. However, a court in Islamabad issued a so-called "protective bail" for Khan for the next three days, preventing police from arresting him over the charges, said Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a senior leader in his Tehreek-e-Insaf opposition party.

Hundreds of Tehreek-e-Insaf members stood outside Khan's home on Monday in a show of support as the former premier held meetings inside. The party has warned that it will hold nationwide rallies if Khan is arrested while working to try to squash the charges in court.

"We will take over Islamabad and my message to police is ... don't be part of this political war anymore," warned Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, a former minister under Khan.

Under Pakistan's legal system, police file what is known as a first information report about charges against an accused person to a magistrate judge, who allows the investigation to move forward. Typically, police then arrest and question the accused.

The report against Khan includes testimony from Magistrate Judge Ali Javed, who described being at the Islamabad rally on Saturday and hearing Khan criticize the inspector-general of Pakistan's police and another judge. Khan went on to reportedly say: "You also get ready for it, we will also take action

against you. All of you must be ashamed."

Khan could face several years in prison from the new charges, which accuse him of threatening police of-

convicted in the past for insulting judges.

The Pakistani judiciary also has a history of politicization and taking sides in power struggles between

viding evidence that the Pakistani military took part in a U.S. plot to oust him. Washington, the Pakistani military and Sharif's government have all denied

mer cricket star's popularity still could draw millions out to the street. That could further pressure the nuclear-armed nation as it struggles to secure a \$7 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund amid an economic crisis, exacerbated by rising global food prices due in part by Russia's war on Ukraine.

On Sunday, the internet-access advocacy group Net-Blocks said internet services in the country blocked access to YouTube after Khan broadcast the speech on the platform despite a ban issued by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority.

Police arrested Khan's political aide, Shahbaz Gill, earlier this month after he appeared on the private television channel ARY TV and urged soldiers and officers to refuse to obey "illegal orders" from the military leadership. Gill was charged with treason, which carries the death penalty under Pakistan's sedition act that stems from a British colonial-era law. ARY also remains off-air in Pakistan following that broadcast.

Khan has alleged that police abused Gill while in custody. Police say Gill suffers from asthma and has not been abused while detained.

Gill was discharged from a hospital to attend a court hearing Monday. He appeared healthy in television footage as he left for the court amid tight security. The court then ordered that he be returned to police custody for two days of interrogations, Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb said. He likely will appear again in court on Thursday.

Khan's speech Saturday in Islamabad focused primarily on Gill's arrest. □



Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan waves to his supporters during an anti government rally, in Lahore, Pakistan, April 21, 2022.

Associated Press

ficers and the judge under Pakistan's 1997 anti-terrorism law, which granted police wider powers amid sectarian violence in the country.

However, 25 years later, critics say the law helps security forces skirt constitutional protections for defendants while governments also used it for political purposes. Other former Pakistani politicians, including former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and former President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, also have been targeted in probes using the law.

Khan has not been detained on other lesser charges levied against him in his recent campaigning against the government.

Also on Monday, a court in Islamabad ruled that contempt proceedings would begin Tuesday against Khan for threatening a judge, according to court officials.

Usually, Pakistani courts pardon people if they apologize, although some politicians have also been

the military, the civilian government and opposition politicians, according to the Washington-based advocacy group Freedom House. Current Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif likely will discuss the charges against Khan at a Cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

Khan came to power in 2018, promising to break the pattern of family rule in Pakistan. His opponents contend he was elected with help from the powerful military, which has ruled the country for half of its 75-year history.

In seeking Khan's ouster earlier this year, the opposition had accused him of economic mismanagement as inflation soars and the Pakistani rupee plummets in value. The parliament's no-confidence vote in April that ousted Khan capped months of political turmoil and a constitutional crisis that required the Supreme Court to step in. Meanwhile, it appeared the military similarly had cooled to Khan.

Khan alleged without pro-

the allegation. Meanwhile, Khan has been carrying out a series of mass rallies trying to pressure the government.

In his latest speech Sunday night at a rally in the city of Rawalpindi outside of Islamabad, Khan said so-called "neutrals" were behind the recent crackdown against his party.

He has in the past used the phrase "neutrals" for the military.

"A plan has been made to place our party against the wall. I assure you, that the Sri Lankan situation is going to happen here," Khan threatened, referencing the recent economic protests that toppled that island nation's government. "Now we are following law and constitution.

But when a political party strays from that path, the situation inside Pakistan, who will stop the public? There are 220 million people."

Khan's party has been holding mass protests, but Pakistan's government and security forces fear the for-



Minister of Nature visited Jimmy's garden

ORANJESTAD – “Dedication, experience and love for the art of agriculture!” Those were the words expressed by minister of Nature, Transport, Integrity and Older Persons Affairs, Ursell Arends, after a visit to Cunucu di Jimmy.

During his visit, the minister said they exchanged ideas and spent some nice time to know the different kinds of dragonfruit hybrid that Mr. Jimmy has, as well as learning about his experience growing various crops. The minister could also see various fruits and vegetables that are growing in Jimmy's small plantation.

According to the minister,



food security is a priority in order to improve Aruba.

“We are very thankful for the opportunity, and for sure we will continue the conversation with farmers and listening to their common worries and recommendations. Together we

will find solutions to promote local production”, the minister said on his Facebook page.

To find out more about Cunucu di Jimmy, visit our Facebook page: <https://fb.watch/f3Ej4iFKk2/> or scan the QR code. □



Opening of workshop for creators and cultural organizations Presented by Creative Europe Desk

ORANJESTAD – From yesterday, 22nd of August and until Thursday the 1st of September, representatives of Creative Europe Desk from the Netherlands, Mr. Jelle Burggraaff and Mr. Albert Meijer are in Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao for a working visit.

The representatives of Creative Europe Desk will meet with creators and organizations and will give workshops on the opportunities for our artists and cultural organizations to receive funds. The workshops will offer information on how DutchCulture can sup-

port and collaborate with the players in the creative world and local organizations on the cultural sector on an international level. Everyone active in this field who has a interest was allowed to attend the workshops. Information was provided on the Creative Europe program, and who is it for, what European subsidies are available, what DutchCulture does, and how they can help creators and cultural organizations expand their network of international contacts. Aruba's minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro, gave an opening speech during

which she thanked Creative Europe Desk for their availability, and Cede Aruba for organizing this.

Creative Europe is a subsidy program for seven years, promoting and supporting international cooperation in the creative cultural sector. This program is directed to all artists and organizations in the field of music and all other forms of creative arts.

Aruba is a small island, but we have a large amount of talent, the minister recognized some of them during the opening. These talents enrich our cultural sector,



and due to lack of funds, they cannot continue developing their talents and our creative cultural sector. The program for European funds is a significant oppor-

tunity to push our cultural sector, particularly right now with the delicate financial situation our country is going through, according to the minister. □



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Some of Peru's Best Flavors are Firing up Palm Beach, Thanks to New Pop-Up Restaurant Blu Bar



PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar

snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.

As for libations, the beverage team built an equal innovative menu with a detailed selection of stunning wines and signature cocktails to pair with each dish.

The next hot spot in Palm Beach
The pop-up is the only spot for Peruvian



dining in Palm Beach and offers both indoor dining with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, and outdoor seating with a picturesque view of the resort's luxurious pool and lush gardens. The upscale atmosphere, rich in original architectural details absolute perfect location for dining with loved ones, clients, and business associates. At night, the restaurant's chic bar is a lively place to gather with friends for cocktails and cozy vibes.

One thing must be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real attention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new, and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Radisson Blu Aruba invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a Peruvian culinary experience they will never forget. Located in the heart of Radisson Blu Aruba, Blu Bar is open daily from 5PM to 11PM.

Unwind with local prices and a singing angel
Blu Bar offers a nice selection of wines and each Wednesday you will only pay in Florins. The Dollar to Florin deals – 44% discount – on wine bottles start from 5PM every Wednesday. Now it gets even better because from 7PM you can enjoy the amazing voice of local singer Amy Sorinio. The all-round performer has a unique voice and a great energy. She easily connects with her public and enchants you with jazz, easy listening, pop, soul, Latin... name a style and she can do it. Her passion led her travelling all around the world and you will feel her experience and genuine love for music.

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Start of the Financial Education Project to empower the citizen

ORANJESTAD - The Minister of Economic Affairs, Communication, and Sustainable Development, Geoffrey Wever, announces the start of the project "Finance in your home".

This project is in connection with the management of National Financial Education. The goal of this project is for the people to obtain guidance and knowledge that helps them make financial decisions for their benefit.

Together with the Plan di Bida Foundation, which developed the Finance in your home project, it will offer a financial education program. The Plan di Bida Foundation is willing to share its expertise in this field and contribute to financial awareness.

According to a survey by the Central Bank of Aruba, 3 out of 10 households in Aruba spend more than they earn monthly. This development is very worrying because it indicates that these households have financial challenges each month to meet their financial obligations and needs such as rent, food, and personal expenses. It is essential, as a consumer, to know the impact of each financial decision on your wallet and family.

To facilitate support to the citizen, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Communication, and Sustainable Development will initiate the project Finances in

your Home. This project is in the form of a course and will address four essential topics on how to manage your finances daily. These topics are:

Cash at home. How to save and buy without emotions; I pay my debts. What will happen if I stop paying my debts?

Invest in the future. Our future and that of our children are important, and how to achieve our goals; My budget. What are luxury and priority? How to budget according to your

income and achieve your goals?

This course is given in Noord, Santa Cruz, San Nicolas, Paradera, Savaneta and Oranjestad.

Financial decisions require a certain degree of knowledge that is part of financial education.

According to Minister Geoffrey Wever, financial literacy is essential for the people, consumers, and country development. □



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For Directions

Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation

ORANJESTAD — Turtugaruba was founded on September 3rd, 2003 by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Ten years earlier, in 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was introduced in Aruba and the rest of the Caribbean as an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Tom Barmes, who was working at DLVV (Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery) was one of the writers of the STRAP for Aruba, together with Karen Eckert, director of WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network). This is how sea turtle conservation started on the island following a plan that is still complied with today.

Tom formed a group of volunteers around him, because nature does not know office hours, like an organization such as DLVV. This group of volunteers used the name WIDECAST Aruba and today there are still a few of them active. They first started protecting the Leatherback Sea Turtle nests on Palm Beach and Eagle Beach. This group also investigated which other species of sea turtles use Aruba as their nesting habitat and which beaches are used by them. For a period of 25 years a study has been conducted in which every early morning the beach was being monitored in which now there is a good overview of sea turtle nesting activities.

There are 4 different sea turtle species that visit Aruba to lay their eggs, each with their own specific season:

- Leatherback Sea Turtle -

Lederschildpad - Driekiel (March – September)
- Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Dikkopschildpad - Cawama (May – September)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle - Karetschildpad - Caret (June – December)
- Green Turtle - Soepschildpad - Turtuga Blanco (July-November)

There also came a better understanding and overview of the biggest threats to the sea turtles existence in Aruba and how these problems should be tackled. Despite hard work, all those years, most problems have not really gone away, but luckily and thanks to the enormous efforts from the volunteers, the sea turtles are still here. On Aruba the sea turtles are threatened with extinction by pollution, driving on dunes and beaches with quads and 4x4's and the loss of nesting beaches due to coastal development on behalf of tourism. Because coastal development comes with artificial light and artificial light is a mayor issue for sea turtles, mother turtle usually comes on shore at night looking for a dark beach to make her nest. However... a dark beach is hard to find here nowadays. Light causes stress and can result in her returning to the sea without laying her eggs. Artificial light causes disorientation for the baby sea turtles (hatchlings).

They crawl towards artificial light sources (like

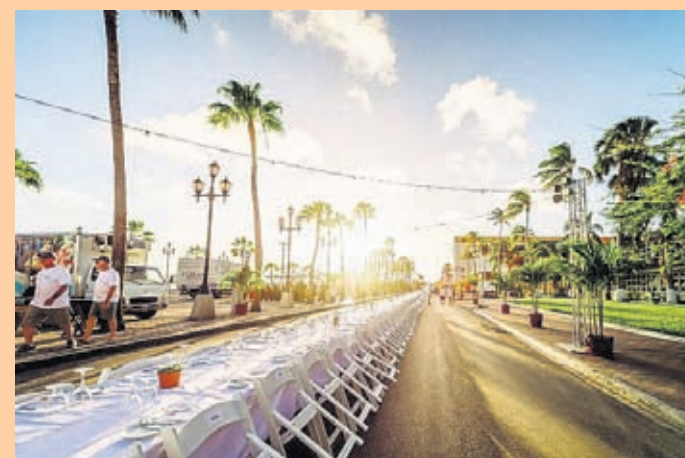
streetlights, hotel lights, etc.) and then they don't find the sea. In the 90's it was still a common occurrence to find a complete nest of about 70 hatchlings on the streets, dead, as cars drove over them. Thanks to their protection methods and a lot of time and effort, the volunteers of Turtugaruba have managed to get this under control. But for a sustainable solution there must be less light visible on the beaches and a strict regulation of it. Sea turtles simply need dark nesting beaches for their survival. It is clear that even more coastal development would not make the situation better for the sea turtles. Again, more hotel rooms? And even busier beaches? These are choices Aruba has to make. Do we want to leave a place for the sea turtles? Not only Aruba, but the entire world needs sea turtles! Sea turtles play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy.

The Green Turtle, for example, keeps the sea grasses on the bottom of the sea short and therefore a healthy place for many fish to deposit their eggs. The Leatherback, the largest turtle of the world, eats mainly jellyfish and helps maintain the balance between jellyfish and plankton. Despite the threats that exist on Aruba, the turtles still keep coming. That's why today Turtugaruba is especially proud of the volunteers and the many people and organizations of our community that carry a warm place in their hearts for the sea turtles. All four species are active now, which means all hands on deck in the field for us, the volunteers. We strive to keep the sea turtles, our oldest 'repeat guests', always coming back to Aruba and get the chance to reproduce here. □



Wind Creek Aruba Kicks Off Voting For Long Table Aruba Charity Event, Awarding One Local Organization With \$40,000

Voting is now open to the public through August 24 to determine donation recipient



ORANJESTAD – Wind Creek Aruba announced the open voting period for the 4th Annual Long Table Aruba, which will award one local Aruban charity \$40,000 - a record-high donation in the event's history.

More than 40 charities are eligible for votes via the Wind Creek Aruba website through August 24, and the winners will be announced on August 28 at the Long Table Aruba event. To be considered for the donation, local organizations were asked to submit a video showcasing their charity's mission and share why they would like to receive the \$40,000 donation.

This year's Long Table Aruba event, which is currently sold out, also marks the fifth anniversary of the Wind Creek Hospitality acquisition of Renaissance Aruba.

"We're so fortunate to be surrounded by such incredible charitable organizations doing great work here in Aruba, and we've never been more committed to the Aruban community," said Paul Gielen, Wind Creek Aruba General Manager. "What better way for us to honor these charities than inviting the public to learn more about each one and cast their vote for the organization they'd like to win."

Since arriving on the island in 2017, Wind Creek Aruba has illustrated its dedication to the community by raising funds through its hallmark events - like Long Table Aruba and Winter Wonderland - and providing in-kind hospitality and food donations year-round to organizations in need of disaster relief. Long Table Aruba alone has raised more than \$75,000 for Aruba-based charities. □



Niesha Butler, ex-WNBA athlete and software engineer sees Aruba as a connection to her deceased mother

'Coding can be an opportunity to rise from poverty'

"There is potential in Aruba to provide call service and also in the field of information, particularly because the country is multilingual." That is the opinion of Niesha Butler. Butler, native of New York, is a former professional basketball player with the WNBA, and an actress; and she knows what she's talking about.

She has a special connection with Aruba. Her mother Alice was born in New York from an Aruban mother, and lived a long part of her life with her grandparents in Aruba. And like her mother, Niesha, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, spent a lot of time in Aruba with her grandmother Carmen and her great-grandparents, Joahn and Alice Breetveld.

Alice, Niesha's mother, who passed away some years ago, grew up in New York and Aruba, and her family was well-known particularly in San Nicolas. Her grandparents were the owners of the famous Dutch Machine Shop on Congoweg. Niesha grew up listening to stories about an Aruban landmark, and perhaps this pushed Niesha also to decide to study programming, and now she is a software engineer.

Butler earned her degree as Software Engineer after a successful career in basketball, a sport that gave her an opportunity to stand out. Niesha even was part of the New York City All City Team for four years in a row. She is still considered one of



the top basketball players at the high school level.

After a year with New York Liberty, she played at the professional level in Gran Canaria, Spain, and the famous basketball athlete, Stephon Marbury approached her to attend Georgia Tech. This is how Niesha became the first female athlete at the University to win the title of Rookie of the Year. She appeared in the Spike Lee movie, 'She Hate Me', and starred in the movie 'Bringing Rain' by Noah Buschel, as well as appearing in the first advertisement that LeBron James made for Nike, among other things.

But the blood of an entrepreneur is in her. As a child she made money selling T-shirts, as adult she worked in the corporate sector of Pe-

troleum and Natural Gas, and started her first company based on information technology, Sports Data-Base Network in 2010. And during her career as an IT professional, Niesha decided to start a non-profit organization, Ballin Technologies, to provide youngsters in marginal neighborhoods in New York the opportunity to learn the world of coding to have better perspectives for their future.

What's more, on the day she spoke with our reporter, Niesha had just finished a Saturday session. "Kids. Logic. The first week they registered but did not show up, and today, they did not register but did show up." Consequently, she had to prepare her staff on how to deal with the unexpected. "But on the other hand, they receive the prepara-

tion on how to deal with children who cannot sit still, cannot focus, are too excited or are too loud. We also learn with the process."

Niesha doesn't have any children of her own and she doesn't have teaching experience, but in her job as a volunteer, visiting schools, she realized how particularly girls would show interest in programming and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects. Niesha decided to provide the program STEAM Champs, with Art in the curriculum.

"I wanted to make opportunities available for them, but I was nervous because I don't have experience in education. But what I realized is that children, what you need to do is to see them. Let them notice that they have your attention and interest in them. In that moment, they do their best to fulfill expectations."

STEAM Champs got a lot of attention in the United States, and in an interview with ABC News, Butler explained that she works with interns who also had the opportunity to learn coding for the first time. "People sell basketball dreams in our community. I think it's very important to sell these technical dreams", Butler said.

She elaborated to our reporter: "The percentage of people who live below the poverty line in New York is quite large. I was shocked.

At the same time there are thousands of jobs in technology, particularly in coding, that can't be filled. These are jobs that pay big salaries."

In other words, there are opportunities, but until now a lot of people of color in New York did not have the possibility to use this trajectory. Access to a computer and stable wi-fi to start is absent in a lot of these homes. This is one of the necessary conditions to give young people the space to grow in this subject.

Butler's STEAM Champs has computer and continuous wi-fi, so the kids attending the camp can be sure that they have a safe place where they can work on their future. Data shows that young persons who participate in such programs have more probability of completing higher education.

And Butler thinks the children of Aruba should have the same opportunity. More importantly, the fact that in Aruba various languages are spoken makes the island ideal to work on this potential, according to Butler. But while she is working to provide the kids in New York with the necessary tools to grow in the tech world, Aruba remains as the place she visits to feel closer to her mother. "I realized that since she passed away, Aruba has been calling me. It is an emotional connection to my mother, and soon I will be back on Aruba", Niesha said. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Stood up to
- 7 Banana leftover
- 11 Grove fruit
- 12 Choir voice
- 13 Hall of Fame pitcher
- 15 Some tournaments
- 16 Glasgow native
- 18 Final, for one
- 21 Penniless
- 22 Church leader
- 24 Sick
- 25 Opening
- 26 2016 Olympics host
- 27 "What a shame!"
- 29 Group of believers
- 30 Snooty fellow
- 31 Feedbag fill
- 32 Warning sound
- 34 Hall of Fame pitcher
- 40 Corrosive stuff
- 41 Bald spot cover
- 42 Cincinnati team
- 43 Add with a caret

DOWN

- 1 Uno doubled
- 2 Pitcher's stat
- 3 Summer cooler
- 4 Like some pools
- 5 Sphinx setting
- 6 Astronaut Slayton
- 7 Takes a breather
- 8 Hobbit helper
- 9 Greek vowel
- 10 Smoked salmon
- 14 Like draft beer
- 16 Recital highlights

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Yesterday's answer

- 17 Two-dot character
- 19 Swagger
- 20 Works hard
- 21 Deep hole
- 22 Spot to jot
- 23 Nonsense
- 25 Roof feature
- 28 Floor makeup
- 29 College grounds
- 31 Welles of "Citizen Kane"
- 33 Opposed
- 34 Combat
- 35 Good serve
- 36 Relieve (of)
- 37 Gorilla, for one
- 38 That lass
- 39 Tennis need

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
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42					43					

8-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

DY CBK'H FSTY FRQHSTYQ.

I P Q H J S O O U E R H H E Y

SVVRCYKHQ. — GBG L BQQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AH, SUMMER, WHAT POWER YOU HAVE TO MAKE US SUFFER AND LIKE IT. — RUSSELL BAKER

Liz Weston: 3 reasons not to tap your home equity right now

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Soaring real estate values mean many homeowners are awash in equity — the difference between what they owe and what their homes are worth. The average-priced home is up 42% since the start of the pandemic, and the average homeowner with a mortgage can now tap over \$207,000 in equity, according to Black Knight Inc., a mortgage and real estate data analysis company. Spending that wealth can be tempting. Proceeds from home equity loans or lines of credit can fund home improvements, college tuition, debt consolidation, new cars, vacations whatever the borrower wants.

But just because something can be done, of course, doesn't mean it should be done. One risk of such borrowing should be pretty obvious: You're putting your home at risk. If you can't make the payments, the lender could foreclose and force you out of your house.

Also, as we learned dur-

YOU MAY NEED YOUR EQUITY LATER

Many Americans aren't saving enough for retirement and may need to use their home equity to avoid a sharp drop in their standard of living. Some will do that by selling their homes and downsizing, freeing up money to invest or supplement other retirement income.

Other retirees may turn to reverse mortgages. The most common type of reverse mortgage allows ho-

room in a nursing home cost a median \$7,908 per month in 2021, according to Genworth, which provides long-term care insurance. Some people who don't have long-term care insurance instead plan to borrow against their home equity to pay those bills. Clearly, the more you owe on your home, the less equity you'll have for other uses. In fact, a big mortgage could preclude you from getting a reverse mortgage at all. □



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com. Associated Press

Cineworld theater chain confirms it's considering bankruptcy

LONDON (AP) — Cineworld Group PLC, one of the world's largest movie theater chains, said Monday that it is considering filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

protection in the U.S. and similar actions elsewhere. The British company, which owns Regal Cinemas in the United States and operates in 10 countries, said

bankruptcy is one option it is weighing to help preserve a business that has struggled to rebound from the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Cineworld said it's holding talks with major stakeholders such as lenders. It expects operations to run normally following any filing and "ultimately to continue its business over the longer term with no significant impact upon its employees." It has about 28,000 workers, according to the company's website. Company shares tumbled 58% Friday after The Wall Street Journal reported that the company was preparing to file for bankruptcy within weeks. □



A man walks past a Cineworld cinema in Leicester Square, London, on Oct. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

Study: Already shrunk by half, Swiss glaciers melting faster



A person stands in front of the Bernina mountain group with the Pers and Morteratsch glaciers in Pontresina, Switzerland, Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

Associated Press

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Switzerland's 1,400 glaciers have lost more than half their total volume since the early 1930s, a new study has found, and researchers say the ice retreat is accelerating at a time of growing concerns about climate change. ETH Zurich, a respected federal polytechnic university, and the Swiss Federal Institute on Forest, Snow and Landscape Research on Monday announced the findings from a first-ever reconstruction of ice loss in Switzerland in the 20th century, based in part on an analysis of changes to the topography of glaciers since 1931. The researchers estimated that ice volumes on the glaciers had shrunk by half over the subsequent 85 years until 2016. Since then, the glaciers have lost an additional 12%, over just six years. "Glacier retreat is accelerating. Closely observing this phenomenon and quantifying its historical dimensions is important because it allows us to infer the glaciers' responses to a changing climate," said Daniel Farinotti, a co-author of the study, which was published in scientific journal The Cryosphere. □

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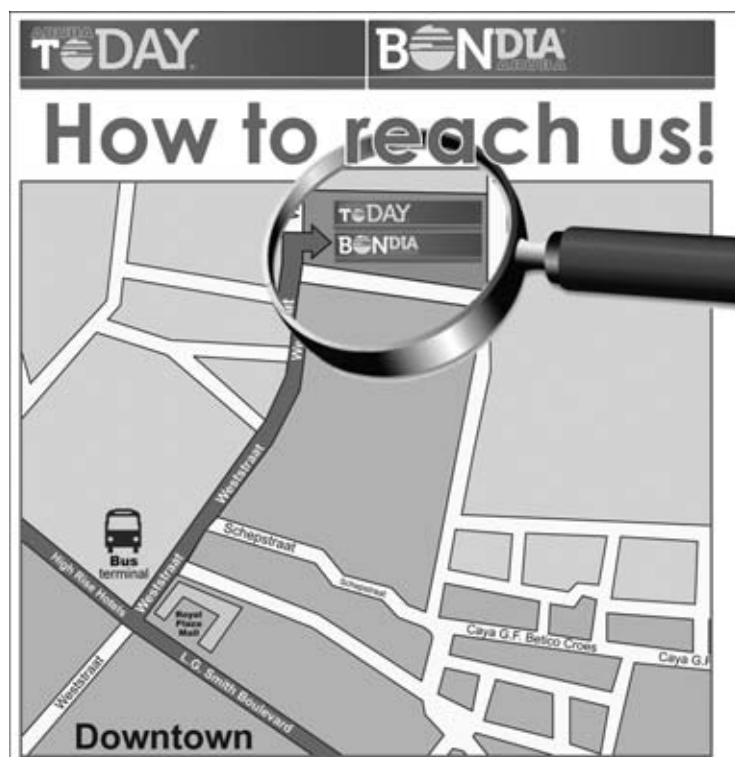
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Michelle Monaghan plays identity-switching twins in new show

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

You could say Michelle Monaghan's co-star in her new Netflix series "Echoes," required her to do twice the work. Monaghan stars as twins, Gina and Leni, in the seven-episode thriller drama.

"It's a lot. It's very, very much a lot," the actor said, laughing, in a recent interview. "It was an intense project, as you can imagine. You know, it's like pulling double duty, truly, but it's also the very reason I wanted to do it, because it was a challenge that I hadn't obviously explored before." In "Echoes," which begins streaming Friday, Gina and Leni aren't just twins with a sixth sense about the other or a close bond, they share everything, so much so that they switch identities every year on their birthday. This means they share jobs, friends, unsuspecting husbands and a child. As Leni, one is in West Virginia raising horses and a daughter with her husband, played by Matt Bomer. The other lives a fast-paced life in Los Angeles with her therapist husband (Daniel Sunjata.) Their (twisted) ritual hits a major snag when Leni goes missing and Gina must return home to join in the search. Flashbacks



Actor Michelle Monaghan poses for a portrait to promote the Netflix limited series "Echoes," Monday, Aug. 15, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

throughout show their childhood and teen years and what led them to switch identities in the first place. Monaghan says she studied twins in preparing for the role and learned that switching identities does occur. "I learned that a lot of switching of identities takes place. People tend to do it as twins when they're children generally, you know, doing it experimentally, I suppose, to have fun or to avoid getting in trouble.

And they switch and they do the thing and they think it's fun. They prank people. And then there are some other stories where, you know, kind of people do it as adults and maybe in a more sinister, manipulative way." Monaghan isn't the first actor to play twins on screen. Memorable examples include the 1961 movie "The Parent Trap" starring Hayley Mills as identical sisters and the 1963 TV series, "The Patty Duke Show," starring Pat-

ty Duke as identical cousins. Those projects used split screens to pull off scenes with both actors. By 1998, Lindsay Lohan starred in the remake of "The Parent Trap," using photography tricks and a body double. For "Echoes," a motion control camera was brought in and Monaghan says she made the switch herself, between Gina and Leni, "multiple times a day." "What that allowed us to do is really just put both women there side by side,

and you could see them really flawlessly," explained Monaghan.

"I would really just play one character's side for a few hours and I would work alongside a wonderful actress who acted as the opposite character. So if I was playing Leni, she was playing Gina for me, and then I would finish that character and go and do an hour switch of hair, makeup and wardrobe and then come back and do the other side of that. And we would do that sometimes a couple of times a day."

Vanessa Gazy, the show's creator, executive producer, and writer, said witnessing Monaghan's abilities, plus the work of the visual effects department, "is still thrilling" and the end result met her "earliest visions for the show."

"Watching a talented actor at work is a joy, and to watch Michelle Monaghan split herself in half to inhabit two complex, identical women was perhaps doubly so. This was an enormous undertaking for Michelle in particular: playing two lead roles over seven episodes is not only a performance challenge but a production marathon. She approached the work with passion, generosity, courage and kindness." □

Stelter says CNN must hold media accountable as show ends

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Reliable Sources" host Brian Stelter insisted Sunday that he'll still be rooting for CNN even after his show was canceled this week, but stressed that it was important for the network and others to hold the media accountable.

CNN gave Stelter the chance to host a final episode of the 30-year Sunday morning program on the media even after it was learned this week that he and the show would be exiting — a gesture that's relatively rare in television. Stelter said that it was not partisan to stand up for decency, democracy and dialogue. "It's not partisan to



CNN "Reliable Sources" anchor Brian Stelter attends The Hollywood Reporter's annual Most Powerful People in Media issue celebration on May 17, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

stand up to demagogues," he said. "It's required. It's patriotic. We must make sure we don't give platforms to those who are lying to our faces. But we also must make sure we are representing the total spectrum of debate and representing what's going on in the country and the world." It was Stelter's most direct reference to what is believed to be the reason for his demise; CNN hasn't talked publicly about it. Since he started this spring, new CNN chief executive Chris Licht has made clear he wants to tone down opinion, particularly as it made Republicans resistant to the network. Stelter, who wrote a book about

Fox News Channel and was frequently critical of Fox, was a lightning rod for conservatives' complaints. Some of his final "Reliable Sources" guests were more direct. Eric Deggans, NPR television critic, said he hopes CNN will continue to give viewers context and not be reduced to false equivalency. "Just the facts" isn't enough, he said. "Will CNN have the courage to do that?" Deggans asked. "I hope so." Stelter, who hosted the show for nine years, also had Watergate scribe Carl Bernstein as a guest and brought back the first guest from the first "Reliable Sources" in 1992 — then-local journalist Brian Karem. □

Elliott angry with teammate Larson as playoffs loom

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Kyle Larson has just two wins this season and both came at the expense of teammate Chase Elliott.

The relationship between NASCAR's last two Cup champions seemed precarious Sunday night at Watkins Glen International as Larson celebrated in victory lane while Elliott sought out team leadership for what appeared to be an animated conversation.

The 2020 Cup champion and NASCAR's most popular driver had just clinched the regular-season title, but Elliott had dominated the race and might have picked up his fifth win of the year had Larson not muscled his way past his teammate on the final restart. Larson forced Elliott to miss the corner and slide back into traffic, all while Larson skirted away to his first victory since February at Fontana. He ran Elliott into the wall to win that race.

"I am not proud of it," Larson said upon climbing from his car Sunday. "I don't like to do that. But in that moment, that was my only shot to win. I haven't won a lot this year. I felt like I did what I had to do to benefit our playoffs."

Elliott, meanwhile, was locked into a conversation with Hendrick Motorsports owner Rick Hendrick and vice chairman Jeff Gordon. Elliott appeared to do most of the talking, and after he walked away, he had little to offer in interviews about



Kyle Larson smiles with his trophy after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Watkins Glen, N.Y., Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

the finish of the race or his regular-season title.

"Just a huge congratulations to Kyle and everybody on the 5 team. Congratulations to everybody at Hendrick Motorsports for getting another win," was Elliott's first response.

Larson said he expected a conversation between the two at the Hendrick competition meeting. What would Elliott have to say?

"Congratulations. He did a great job. Seriously, they deserve it," Elliott said. "Looking forward to going to Bristol next week and trying to get one for our team." And what about Rick Hendrick, did he offer any words of consolation as one of his drivers celebrated and the other stewed? Elliott refused to bite.

"Like I said, always good to see HMS win," Elliott said. "The boss deserves all the wins, all the great things that go on with this company. Proud of that. Looking forward to next week."

Elliott on multiple references looked ahead to Bristol — apparently so angry in the moment that he forgot the regular-season finale Saturday night is at Daytona International Speedway. The Cup Series doesn't race at Bristol until Sept. 17 in the first-round playoff elimination race.

It's unlikely the Hendrick camp will allow this feud to fester for an entire month and get to Bristol, where deliberate revenge could knock someone to an early exit from the playoffs. But it has been difficult for Elliott

and Larson to build much of a relationship since Larson joined the four-car Hendrick fleet in 2021.

NASCAR and HMS were still operating within COVID-19 protocols and face-to-face interactions were limited when Larson first joined the team. It wasn't until midway through the season that the two spent any meaningful time together, and by that point Larson had already established himself as NASCAR's top driver.

He was the new driver at HMS and teammates with the reigning Cup champion, but Larson outperformed Elliott and won 10 races en route to his own first Cup title. If there were hard feelings, it didn't show until February of this year at Fontana when Elliott was

clearly aggravated at how Larson raced him for the win.

Just like Sunday at Watkins Glen, Larson was instantly apologetic and sought out Elliott the next week to clear the air. He anticipated putting this latest kerfuffle to quick rest, but the playoffs start in a week with a Cup title on the line and two drivers have carved out their own personal inner-team rivalry that could stretch the next two-plus months.

Hendrick is unlikely to let it fester — don't forget, HMS actually has all four of its drivers in the 16-driver playoff field — and the boss has long preached that ships are typically sunk from within. He'll do his best this week to have Elliott calmed down before he gets to Daytona this weekend.

Whether that helps Larson the rest of the season remains to be seen.

"In my position you have to expect not getting any breaks cut my way," Larson said. "I think and I hope it will be fine, but we'll see. I didn't end his day, but I did probably take a win from him. The next 11 weeks, 10 weeks in the playoffs, there's more than just me to worry about."

"I definitely know there may be moments throughout the playoffs where I feel like we're around each other a lot because we're pretty equal on track and stuff. Yeah, there may be moments. In my position, you kind of have to accept it." □

Zverev, 2020 US Open runner-up, to miss event with injury

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexander Zverev, the 2020 U.S. Open runner-up, will miss the tournament this year while recovering from surgery on his right ankle.

Zverev tore ligaments in the ankle during his semifinal match against Rafael Nadal at the French Open in June, and the No. 2-ranked player withdrew from the U.S. Open on Monday.

The 25-year-old German

was on the verge of his first Grand Slam title two years ago in Flushing Meadows before Dominic Thiem rallied to beat him in a fifth-set tiebreaker. It was the first time a man overcame a 2-0 deficit in the final of the event since Pancho Gonzalez did it against Ted Schroeder in 1949.

Zverev won the Olympic gold medal in Tokyo last year and then returned to

the U.S. Open semifinals, losing to Novak Djokovic in five sets.

American Stefan Kozlov moved into the main draw for the tournament. Main draw play begins next Monday.

Reilly Opelka, who won two titles earlier this year, also withdrew Monday because of injury.

He reached the fourth round of the U.S. Open



Germany's Alexander Zverev grimaces in pain after twisting his ankle during the semifinal match against Spain's Rafael Nadal at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Friday, June 3, 2022.

Associated Press

last year. Fellow American Jack Sock took his place in

the main draw. □

Plate discipline: MLB umps crack down on blocking home



Detroit Tigers' Javier Baez scores past Cleveland Guardians catcher Austin Hedges on a ball hit by Harold Castro, while home plate umpire Lance Barksdale watches during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, in Cleveland.
Associated Press

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The rough-and-tumble days of Pete Rose bowling over Ray Fosse at home plate of the 1970 All-Star Game are long gone.

Most believe that's a change for the better. "It's not a football game," D-backs manager Torey Lovullo said. "We've got to make sure guys stay safe." But the drama — and sometimes controversy — surrounding plays at the plate are still around more than 50 years later.

Two MLB games over the past 10 days were partially decided after video replay overturned plays at the plate, favoring baserunners over the catcher. The first was in Washington's 4-3 win over the San Diego Padres and the other was in Detroit's 4-3 victory over the Cleveland Guardians.

The plays were strikingly similar: Cleveland's Austin Hedges and San Diego's Austin Nola each tagged out a runner at the plate, but on review, it was ruled that the catchers failed to give a clear lane for the runner to score and the call was overturned.

Hedges and Nola were both stunned. Hedges was particularly angry, calling the reversal "embarrassing." The Padres and Guardians are both fighting for playoff spots. "I thought I did everything the way we practice: Step back, give him a lane, not throw the knee in front," Nola said. So are

the catchers right? As with many things, it's complicated. Sounds simple enough. The problem is the catcher is trying to get in good position to field the ball, adjusting to the trajectory of the throw. Many times, that means the catcher moves a foot in front or on top of the plate. Even if the plate isn't completely blocked, it makes for a more difficult sliding target for the baserunner.

At that point, it becomes a judgment call.

The rule has been around for several years: It was changed in 2014 and is colloquially called the "Buster Posey rule" after the All-Star catcher suffered a broken ankle on a play at the plate. But umpires' willingness to rule in favor of baserunners is arguably a new development.

Diamondbacks catcher Carson Kelly said he understands both sides of the debate.

"You've got to be conscience of what you're doing, where you're positioned," Kelly said. "But ultimately, we've got to be able to go get the ball."

Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo agreed that the rule is simple, even if the interpretation is not. He added that plays at the plate happen in a hurry and there's a lot of moving parts in a couple seconds.

"The timing of sports in slow motion sometimes looks so different than what actually happens in front of you when you're doing it,"

Lovullo said. "I don't think anyone is maliciously acting out to break the rules."

700 CLUB?

If this is it for Albert Pujols, the 11-time All-Star is closing his career with quite a flourish.

The 42-year-old Pujols blasted two more homers on Saturday, pushing his career total to 692. He's now just four homers shy of Alex Rodriguez for the No. 4 spot in MLB history.

Now the question is this: Can the three-time MVP get to 700?

That seemed like an extreme longshot just a few weeks ago, but the way he's hitting these days, nothing seems impossible. About 40 games are left in the regular season, which Pujols says will be his last.

"That's the hard work I put in day in and day out," Pujols said. "Nothing surprises me."

TRIVIA QUESTION

St. Louis' Yadier Molina has played 2,159 career games at catcher, which ranks fourth in MLB history. Who are the top three?

DODGER DOMINATION

The Los Angeles Dodgers have played so well over the past couple months that the record for wins in a regular season is in play. The Dodgers are 39-8 since June 29, improving their mark to 84-36 for the season. To match the record of 116 wins, last reached by the Seattle Mariners in 2001, the Dodgers need to go 32-10.

Will that be hard? Absolutely.

Impossible? Not the way L.A. is playing.

What's even more remarkable is that mathematically the Dodgers could have an even better record.

Their pythagorean win-loss record, which takes into account runs scored versus runs allowed and comes up with the record a team "should" have, is 87-33. The Dodgers have scored 264 more runs than they've allowed.

TRIVIA ANSWER

Ivan Rodriguez (2,427), Carlton Fisk (2,226) and Bob Boone (2,225). □



Carolina Panthers quarterback Baker Mayfield (6) gestures during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Washington Commanders, Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

QB Mayfield starting for Panthers in Week 1 against Browns

By **STEVE REED**
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Baker Mayfield will start the Carolina Panthers' Sept. 11 regular-season opener against his former team, the Cleveland Browns. Panthers coach Matt Rhule made the announcement on the team's website Monday.

Mayfield, acquired in a trade with the Browns earlier this offseason, beat out incumbent starter Sam Darnold for the job. The news was expected as Mayfield had outperformed Darnold during most of training camp.

"When we started this process, we were looking at three things," Rhule said. "Number one, mastery of the offense, number two, situational football excellence, and number three, moving the ball and getting guys involved. That's been our focus all along. Baker has made a lot of improvement, a lot of growth in all three areas in a short amount of time."

Both Mayfield and Darnold are expected to play in the team's preseason finale on Friday night against the Buffalo Bills. Neither Mayfield nor Darnold has seen much action in the preseason and both were held out of last week's game against the New England Patriots.

Rhule originally said the Panthers would keep three quarterbacks on the roster, but that was before rookie third-round draft pick Matt Corral suffered a Lisfranc ligament tear in his foot.

"All along, we've felt like we need to have a really strong quarterback room, and have every quarterback ready to play," Rhule said. "The reality of this league is most teams will play multiple quarterbacks. Sam has worked incredibly hard, played really well for us during training camp, and will be ready to go if and when it's needed." □